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Chen

THRU : Special Assistant, Research and Reports  
THRU : Chief, Industrial Division, ORR  
THRU : Chief, Transportation Branch, Services Division, ORR  
THRU : Chief, Producers' Equipment Branch, ORR

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Reports on Locomotive and Rolling Stock Production of Poland and East Germany, 1958

1. The reports referred to in the subject, above, have been reviewed by S/TR and I/PE. S/TR made the following comments on inventories of locomotives and rolling stock.

a. Poland. Part 1 (c) page 3.

(1) A rather careful analysis of available monthly data has been made to determine the average number of freight cars in use in Poland during the months of peak traffic. Her estimate for the peak month of 1957 was 201,000 freight cars actually in use in October. During the peak month, probably 95 percent of the total inventory is in use with 5 percent undergoing maintenance and repair. This indicates a total inventory of 212,000 freight cars.

(2) In the 25 February 1958 issue of Trybuna Indu, the inventory of locomotives was reported as follows:

Steam locomotives in 1957	5,887
Electric and diesel locomotives in 1957	
	<u>70</u>
Total	5,957

(3) The statement in paragraph 3 on page 4 that the railways refused to accept any more steam locomotives, thus forcing the diesel and electric program, is open to question. We understood that it was the plan to stop production of steam units rather than a refusal by the railways to accept them. The railroads have planned to retire the oldest steam locomotives as their electrification program progressed and to transfer the better steam units to lines not electrified, thereby making further production of steam unnecessary. Apparently production has not stopped as orders for steam locomotives are being accepted from other countries.

b. East Germany. Rolling stock, page 8.

(1) Total inventory figures are close to our estimates. However, Note 3 serves only to confuse the issue. Undoubtedly, some freight cars are always under repair (7% average in Western Europe

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of total inventory). If freight cars which are irreparable are included in inventory, it serves little purpose.

e. East Germany. Locomotives, page 5.

(1) Locomotive inventory figures are close to our estimates.

2. I/PE is in general agreement with the information on production contained in the three reports. When information available to I/PE differed from the information contained in the reports, this was indicated by a notation made directly on the report. (For example, see the production table, page 2, in the report on Poland.) The information so noted is from official sources or based on official sources of the countries concerned.

3. It is requested that copies of the reports be obtained so that I/PE and S/TR may have retention copies of the three reports.

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